

### REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated February 2, 2007.

Claims 56, 57, 80, and 81 are cancelled. Claims 55, 58, 64-65, and 78, 79, and 82-84 are now pending in this application.

#### Allowed Claims

Claims 55, 64, 78-79, 83, and 84 are allowed. The Office Action does not explicitly mention claim 65 and Applicant presumes it is allowable.

#### §102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 56-58 and 80-82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Miltich et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,402,793). Claims 56, 57, 80, and 81 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

#### Claims 58 and 82

Regarding the subject matter of claims 58 and 82, which recite: using an uninterrupted welding process, Applicant cannot find such subject matter in the cited reference and Applicant believes the claims are not anticipated. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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7/2/07

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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 2 day of July 2007.

Name

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